

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 10772 090858Z

12

ACTION EA-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6687

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, RP

SUBJECT: FFW 12 BIENNIAL CONVENTION AT BAGUIO CITY

1. FEDERATION OF FREE WORKERS (FFW) HELD ITS 12TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION (AND FIRST SINCE MARTIAL LAW) AND 24TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT BAGUIO CITY SEPTEMBER 7-9, 1974. SOME 350 DELEGATES RE-ELECTED JUAN C. "JOHNNY" TAN AS PRESIDENT AND RAMON JABAR AS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT. BOTH WERE UNOPPOSED. IN HOTLY CONTESTED SERIES OF ELECTIONS FOR 10 VICE PRESIDENT POSITIONS (INCLUDING 2 NEW REGIONAL SLOTS FOR MINDANAO AND VISAYAS), ONLY 5 OF INCUMBENTS SURVIVED AS SOME OF YOUNGER AND NEWER MEMBERS REBELLED AGAINST "FFW ESTABLISHMENT" REPRESENTATIVES.

2. LABATT, KONRAD ADENAUER FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE DIETER NIPPERT AND AAFLI COUNTRY DIRECTOR KENNETH HUTCHINSON ALL INVITED TO ADDRESS CONVENTION BEFORE CLOSING SPEECH BY LABOR SECRETARY BLAS OPLE. OPLE STRESSED RESTRUCTURING THEME AND CONGRATULATED FFW FOR ITS DYNAMIC AND DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION PROCEDURES. CONVENTION DOCUMENTATION FOLLOWS BY AIR POUCH.

3. COMMENT: EXCEPT FOR SOMEWHAT UNEXPECTED SHOW OF STRINGTH BY SOME OF FFW YOUNG TURKS, CONVENTION PRODUCED

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PAGE 02 MANILA 10772 090858Z

NO REAL SURPRISES AND CHARACTERIZED BY HARD-WORKING SESSIONS

WHICH LASTED LATE INTO NIGHT. FACT THAT OPLE WENT OUT OF
WAY TO TRAVEL TO BAGUIO TO ADDRESS DELEGATES SHOWS HIGH
ESTEEM FFW AND JOHNNY TAN COMMANDED IN DOL CIRCLES.
SULLIVAN

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